

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates that the Examiner issues a Notice of Allowance for total 14 claims (11 apparatus claims and 3 method claims).

Claims 2-8, 10, 11, 13, 15 and 17-19 are pending within this application. Claims 2-8, 10, 11, 15 and 19 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Applicant intends to file a continuation application for these allowed but cancelled claims (i.e., Claims 2-8, 10, 11, 15 and 19). Allowed Claims 13 and 17-18 remain in the present application, where Claims 13 and 17-18 are independent claims.

MPEP 714.16 states, "After the Notice of Allowance has been mailed, the application is technically no longer under the jurisdiction of the primary examiner. He or she can, however, make examiner's amendments and has authority to enter amendments submitted after Notice of Allowance of an application which embody merely the correction of formal matters in the specification or drawing, or formal matters in a claim without changing the scope thereof, or the cancellation of claims from the application, without forwarding to the supervisory patent examiner for approval". Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this amendment under 37 CFR § 1.312.

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

The Examiner did not acknowledge a claim of foreign priority in the Notice of Allowability, although a perfected claim of foreign priority to an applicant's Japanese patent application (Application No. JP 2003-079010) was submitted on March 16, 2004. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge the claim of foreign priority in the present application.

Favorable consideration of the foregoing amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might expedite an entrance of this amendment, it is respectfully requested that he call the applicant's attorney at (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Fischman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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